

December 1984

ILLINOIS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

# COIN DIGEST



KURT R. KRUEGER



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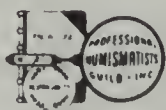
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# **PERMANENT COIN CLUB SHOW DATES**

**SHOW CHAIRMAN: EDWARD VOSS**

**Member Clubs: Please check this listing before scheduling  
your next show! Send listings to Show Chairman EARLY!**

**February — 2nd Sunday: Rantoul Coin Club, Rantoul**

**February — 4th Sunday: Gibson City Coin Club, Gibson City**

**March — 1st Sunday: Wat-Cha-Kee Coin Club, Watseka**

**March — 2nd weekend: Dupo Coin Club, Fairview Heights**

**March — 3rd Sunday: Freeport Coin Club, Freeport**

**March — 3rd Sunday: Kankakee Coin Club, Kankakee**

**April — 3rd weekend (two days): Mattoon Coin Club, Mattoon**

**April — Last Saturday: Corn Belt Coin Club, Bloomington**

**September — Last Sunday: Fairfield**

**October — 1st Saturday: Corn Belt Coin Club, Bloomington**

**October — 2nd Sunday: Tri City Coin Club**

**1450 First Street, Moline, Illinois 61265**

**October — 3rd Sunday: Kankakee Coin Club, Kankakee**

**October — 3rd Sunday: McHenry County Coin Club, Crystal Lake**

**October — 4th Sunday: Hoopeston Coin Club, Hoopeston**

**November — 1st Sunday: Champaign-Urbana Coin Club, Urbana**

**November — 1st Sunday: Dixon Coin Club, Dixon**

**November — 1st Sunday: Centralia Coin Club, Centralia**

**November — 2nd Sunday: Aurora Coin Club, Aurora**

## EDITORIAL

### POT POURRI II

by Mark Wieclaw

#### ILLNA - Illinois Numismatic Apathetics?

In our last issue we instituted some different ideas hoping to get the membership involved. The one-question quiz didn't get a single response. The owner of ILLNA #808 didn't identify himself/herself, and no new articles were offered to us to compete for the literary award. How many ILLNA member clubs jumped at the chance to win \$50 for bringing in new ILLNA members?

At the state show board meeting one of our discussions was centered around the question: "Why should I join ILLNA?" It was decided that the proper response would be "How can **YOU** help ILLNA?" Why anybody would pay dues to join any organization and then contribute nothing further is beyond me.

If you read our "Club News" section each issue, you'll see the same clubs and same individuals mentioned time after time. Why? These people are involved, they are the doers. But what happens when these people lose interest because they get tired of doing all the work and not getting support from the other members?

The finest oil paints and canvas in the world cannot produce a masterpiece alone. It's the amount of effort put forth by the artist that determines how great the painting will be. This is also true with any organization. No matter how large the treasury is, without enthusiastic members to make their organization the best it can possibly be, the money is worthless.

Recently I saw a poster that contained the following quote: "Small is the task that is shared by many." Perhaps this quote could be ILLNA's motto. Although this may appear to be a sermon, it is intended not only for ILLNA but for any other organization you may belong to. Remember, only **YOU** can improve ILLNA; **GET INVOLVED!**

#### TAXES

The tax situation appears to be getting worse for the coin shows in Illinois. I.R.S. staff members are showing up more frequently and pressing sales tax. Many out-of-state dealers are threatening to stay away if they must pay Illinois sales tax. This has caused concern to the ILLNA board for the future of our annual show. Although it has been suggested often to move the show to Chicago, this could be even more detrimental, with a 1% city tax and 1% county tax added to the state tax. This would further alienate the out-of-state dealers.



## ANACS

In my opinion ANACS should only offer authentication services, leaving the grading to the collector. The money saved on the grading fee could be spent on reference books. Nothing is more valuable than one's own knowledge.

## TOO MANY COIN SHOWS?

This question has been tossed around frequently in the past several months. After attending several coin shows this year, I ask the question "Should these be called **COIN** Shows?" Increasing amounts of jewelry, baseball cards, dolls, and original oil paintings have been spotted in the bourse area. How long will it be before beer cans, plates, rusty car parts, and a complete assortment of wrenches and sockets make these shows a glorified flea market?

## EXHIBIT JUDGES

Have you noticed that coin displays are declining in number at most coin shows? One reason is that as coins become more valuable, the security factor becomes a problem. Another reason is that exhibitors have become frustrated with incompetent judging.

Although the main reason for exhibits should be to educate the viewer with information on different areas of numismatics, most exhibitors take pride in their presentation. Many hours are spent researching, typing, selecting attractive material, and arranging. Then on the day of the show one judge doesn't care for that particular area of numismatics and doesn't read the text and gives low scores.

It is very difficult to find people that would want a judge's position and even more so to find someone that does a good job. If you are asked to judge, please read the scoring sheet thoroughly. When you begin judging, keep an open mind and read the text of each exhibit completely. If you are unsure of something, consult your fellow judges or exhibit chairperson. No one is an expert on every subject.

The officials of ILLNA would like to wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season.

*Mark Wieclaw*

Mark Wieclaw

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

December 1, 1984

1984 State Show Profit (ILLNA's portion)	\$ 1780.77*
*Credited to checking account	
Checking Account	\$ 7495.94
Savings Account	4615.83
CD 191-41 (2 yr., 10.25%) matures 12-24-85	1179.00
CD 312-41 (2½ yr., 14.8%) matures 1-19-85	1301.40
CD 1621-41 (2½ yr., 9.8%) matures 12-13-85	1456.79
Total	<hr/> \$16,048.96

### **NOMINATIONS**

Nominations are being sought for the offices of vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Also up for election will be six board positions (one-year and two-year terms). The election will take place in September at the state show.

This is the opportunity to help your organization. Don't procrastinate; **NOW** is the time to get involved.

### **CLUB COMPETITION**

The club that brings in the most individual members to ILLNA will receive \$50. This competition will run from September 1 through August 31. The winning club will be announced at the state show. Membership applications are found elsewhere in the "Digest." Please make a copy of this for each member and state that the club is sponsoring them.

### **LITERARY AWARDS**

A literary award will be given to the author of the best article to appear in the "Digest." This competition will run from September 1 through August 31, and the winner will be announced at the state show. If enough articles are submitted by junior members, they will have a separate contest.

### **MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS**

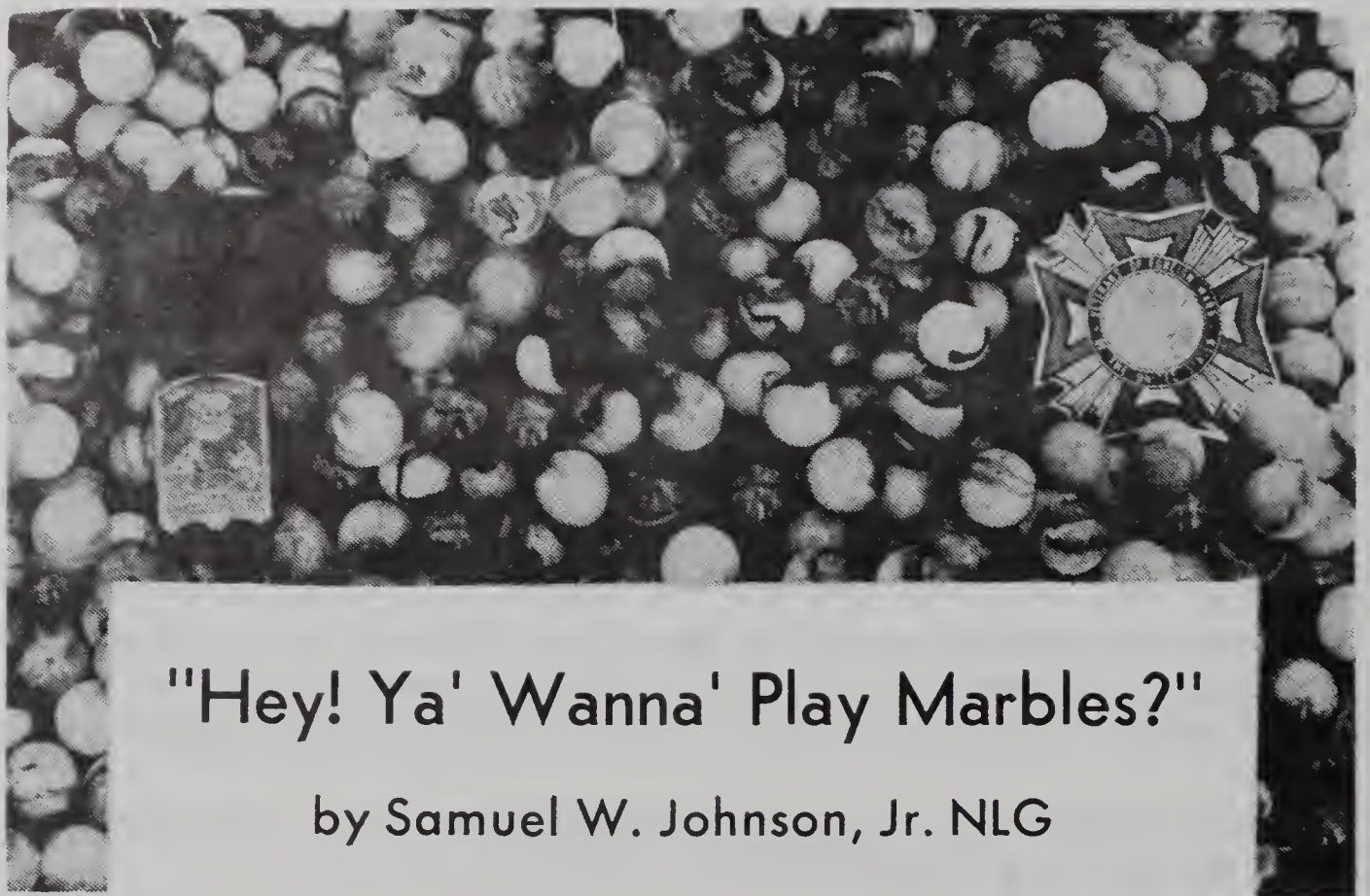
Do you know your ILLNA membership number? If not, check your membership card; you might be a winner. In each issue of the "Digest" we will list one person's membership number. If they identify themselves within 30 days, they receive a previous year's proof set. The winning number for this issue is #1071.

### **NUMISMATIC QUIZ**

Each issue will contain a question pertaining to numismatics. The person that sends the correct answer\* will receive a 1-oz. pure silver medallion issued by ILLNA. In case of more than one correct entry a drawing will be held to select the winner. The question is: Who was the designer of the Norse American Commemorative of 1925? Good luck!

\*Within 30 days





## "Hey! Ya' Wanna' Play Marbles?"

by Samuel W. Johnson, Jr. NLG

Do you remember the game of marbles? When school was "out for the summer," it was once an extremely popular sport. Many of you, I'm sure, are unaware that there were National Marble Tournaments from 1947-62. These were sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization and were quite gala and formal affairs.

This article will feature the medals from these tournaments, the tournaments themselves, three of the nation's best players, plus items related to the game. But, for those of you who never played marbles, here is some background information.

Literally tens of millions of young boys and quite a large number of girls were marble players during the game's peak years of the 1930's to the late 1960's. It was mostly a boy's game, though. I vividly remember, because you see, I was one of them! We'd get out of bed on a summer morning, have a large breakfast, do a few chores, and mosey around the house deciding what to do.

Many days, it wouldn't take us long to decide! We'd grab a couple a' handfuls of marbles, stuff them in our pocket, and out the door we'd go. Many players had small custom-made bags to carry their marbles. Of course, our shooter marble (taw) would be by itself in a separate pocket.

You must understand that every player's shooter marble supposedly had some kind of super natural power. Expert players even had faith in their taws, but the masses of average players believed more strongly that their shooter was a very special marble.

Armed with the faith that our taw wouldn't let us down that day, we'd jump on our bicycle (or walk) and begin looking for a game in progress. If there wasn't one to be found, we'd stop by several friends' houses and say, "Hey! Ya' wanna' play marbles?" One way or another, the competition would begin. The games were played in back yards, vacant lots, dirt roads, or anywhere that there was an area of flat dirt. Two players would play a game with others watching.



If we had previously played (and defeated) our opponent, we would be bold and play "eightsies" or "tensies." (Each player would place eight or ten marbles inside of the circle drawn in the dirt.) If we knew that our opponent was "a pretty good player," we would only agree to twosies or threesies. The majority of the time we "played for keeps;" i.e., each player kept the marbles he won. Many played for "funsies." No-one would lose marbles this way.

From 8-12 feet away, each player would "lag" (toss) his toward the circle of marbles. The closest one to the circle got to "blast away" (shoot) first. Here is where the taw's super-natural power took over! They were supposed to be accurate "stickers." They weren't supposed to roll away after we knuckled down, shot, and knocked a marble out of the ring! That way, we could shoot again and again, repeatedly knocking marbles out of the circle! "Doubs" and "Trips" occurred when you knocked two or three marbles out on one shot.

There would be arguments and trouble if any player repeatedly "fudged" (it was considered fudging if one picked up his taw to shoot, and in doing so, crept an inch or so closer to the marble he intended to shoot at). We all watched our opponents intently to see if he "cheated" in this manner.

Occasional fights occurred because of fudging. They were usually limited to shoving, wrestling, or a few wild right hand punches thrown. The worst that happened was a bloody nose, a few scratches, or perhaps a black eye. They certainly were not serious fights. The opponents, perhaps glaring at each other, would probably play marbles together again in a day or two. You might say that, as small boys, we were quite competitive!

The author played marbles extensively in the early 1950's and was, at best, a break-even player. Oh, I myself missed many shots, but most of the time I would blame my misses on my taw! Like many other players, I even traded some of my "jinxed" taws. We giggled inside like evil devils, because now another player had our jinxed taw and certainly would have no better success than we had! We would choose another from our cache of marbles.

In this era, steelies were very popular and prized possessions. These were shiny round ball bearings. They were rarely used in games. Many of us would literally beg train engineers for steelies. A few days later, upon hearing the train whistle, we'd jump on our bicycles and peddle like demons toward the railroad tracks.

The engineer, if he was the same one, would see us and as the train moved slowly through town, would gently toss a handful of assorted size steelies near us along the track. Like a pack of greedy hungry dogs, we frantically searched for them! Looking back, many of these engineers were good men.

Oh! Then there were "boulders." Everyone had to have a few of them! Boulders were very large marbles, with some being the same diameter as a silver dollar. Like steelies, boulders were rarely used in games. They were mainly collector items and conversation pieces.

After a few hours or an afternoon of playing marbles, we would be hungry and head for home. Friends, we were a sad sight! Our hands and the knees of our trousers were very dirty and dusty. If we stomped our feet, clouds of dust would jump off of our shoes. There must have been an ounce of dirt under each fingernail!

If it was very hot that day, dirt and sweat would blend and our faces would have dirt smeared all over them! The sleeves of our shirts were very dirty because we wiped our faces on them. Our mothers were horrified when we set

foot inside the house! We caught heck, and quickly began to clean up. But, we knew that tomorrow would be another day to play marbles!

I can remember my mother washing clothes, running them through the washing machine wringer, and hanging them on the clothesline to dry. She knew that my clothes would meet the same fate over and over again. It's no wonder mothers prayed for rainy days and for school to begin again! Multiply the above scenes times many millions and you have the extent of marble playing boys! Friends, millions of us loved the game of marbles! Although I may have forgotten a few things, you at least now know what it was like to be a marble player.

### **The V. F. W. National Tournaments**

Many of you may think "why did the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization sponsor a national tournament? Was the massive amount of time and labor worth it?" Mr. Charles C. Ralls, Commander in Chief of the V. F. W. in 1951, certainly believed so! His words will convince many of you that it was a worthwhile project:

"The game of marbles helps teach the important requirements for good citizenship. It might be well if a lot of grownups learned to play the game.

To reach the marble championship class, one has to develop persistence and calm judgement. One has to have skill and a determination to do the job well. Also, the game of marbles calls for fair play and right attitudes. Every player is as good as his shooting. A good loser always comes up smiling.

Those are also the rules which every citizen should follow to get the most out of the American way of life. That's what makes marbles important as well as a lot of fun.

More than one million men who belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars have fought overseas to preserve our freedom of opportunity. They declare that democracy begins at home. They believe that the community is the place in which young Americans should practice good sportsmanship, clean competition, and the sense of fair play.

Those are the reasons the Veterans of Foreign Wars has sponsored marble tournaments in national popularity.

Millions of American boys have participated in V. F. W. school, city, district, state, and national marble contests since 1947. Many others will want to qualify for the privilege of entering the V. F. W. 1951 National Marble Tournament in Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 21-22-23, 1951.

There will be big prizes for winners in the national tournament. But most important, there will be many opportunities for a lot of young fellows to prove that they have what it takes to become leaders among our citizens.

Every boy should be given the right to prove his best qualities — regardless of religious, racial or social status. I urge every V. F. W. member and Post to help make the 1951 Veterans of Foreign Wars Marble Tournament the best we have ever sponsored.

Arrange your local and regional contests, announce your awards, sign up the players, draw the circles, spot the marbles, then shout "take your lag — knuckles down — no fudging. Let's play!"

That will put young America into action. And where do we expect to meet the best man? Albuquerque."

Charles C. Ralls, Commander-in-Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars

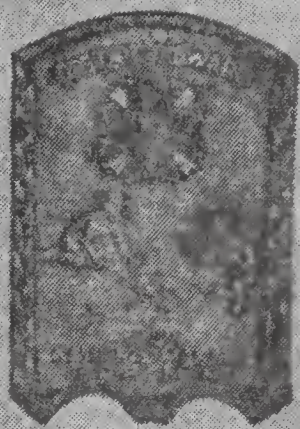
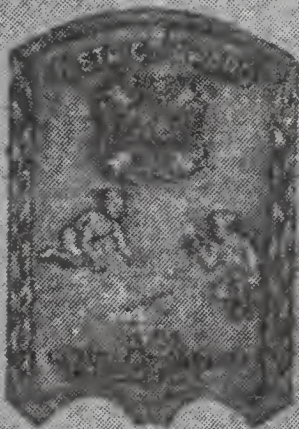




ALL-SCHOOL Winners.



ALL-CITY Winners.



ALL-DISTRICT Winners.



ALL-STATE Winners.

Above are the medal awards presented in the tournaments. Although first, second, and third place medals were of identical design, the color of the medals distinguished the difference. First place winners received a gold color medal with a blue ribbon attached. Second place winners received a silver color medal with red ribbon, third place received a bronze medal with white ribbon. The medals read, "V. F. W. National Marble Tournament" with the proper tournament featured on each. The circle, cross with marbles, official V. F. W. insignia are also on the lower three medals. The reverses are smooth.



Because the National Tournament was such a massive undertaking, it required the work of thousands of V. F. W. personnel. Mrs. George A. Ilg, National President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the V. F. W., made the following appeal in 1951. Her statements will further convince you that the tournaments were certainly worthwhile!

"The annual V. F. W. National Marble Tournament will take on added importance this year under the National Community Service program, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary, for it offers each Auxiliary an opportunity to cooperate with its Post in promoting the contest locally, thereby serving both the youth and the community.

It is especially important today, in the face of increasing juvenile delinquency, that young Americans be encouraged to participate in character-building projects. In my opinion, the Marble Tournament is an outstanding example of this type project, for it instills in our boys an appreciation of fairness, honesty, and clean sportsmanship. It teaches them the importance of cooperating with a group and, at the same time, of possessing a keen, competitive spirit.

By implanting these basic principles of good citizenship in our young people, we are helping them to become better Americans. More than that, we are building a better America, for if these youngsters are aware of the priceless heritage they possess, they will not be taken in by the false theories of Communism. Instead, they will take up our fight against all subversive elements within our nation.

I sincerely hope that every member of the Ladies Auxiliary will accept her share of the responsibility in making the tournament in her own community a success. In this way, we can assure the success of the National Marble Tournament."

Mrs. George Ilg  
National President  
Ladies Auxiliary of the V. F. W.

Featured next are three of the nation's best marble players. They are/were residents of the author's hometown — Sparta, Illinois.

### **Ronnie Penny**

According to newspaper accounts, Ronnie was "unruffled" in competition. At times, he actually appeared bored. Many people who saw him play state that he was the best marble player they ever saw.

Ronnie was a devastating power shooter, eyewitnesses say that he shot so hard and accurately that he sometimes split marbles in half. When this happened, he was credited with that marble and allowed to shoot again. Hit with such force, the split marble would have undoubtedly rolled outside of the ring.

In the 1957 Illinois State Tournament, Ronnie literally destroyed all of his opponents. He won many games by 7-0 and 7-1 scores. He was undefeated in the local, district, and state tournaments. Stunningly, newspaper accounts state that he seldom practiced between the local, district and state tournaments that year. He certainly displayed confidence in his ability!

Competing in the 1957 National Tournament, Ronnie placed 15th nationally. The tournament was held in Seattle, Washington. Ronnie had passed his 15th birthday prior to April 15th, and was therefore unable to compete in the 1958 tournament. Unfortunately, all of his medals were destroyed by fire.





*This photo reveals all of the various state champions and special appointees to the 1957 National Marble Tournament. Ronnie Penny is third from the left in the second row from the bottom.*

Ronnie was later a star athlete at Sparta High School, excelling in football, basketball and track. He certainly was one of the nation's best marble players.

Today, Mr. Penny works as a representative for a floor carpet firm in the Western United States. He prefers anonymity as close friends and relatives in Sparta do not know his current address or telephone number. The author will certainly respect his wish. Therefore, no recent photograph of Mr. Penny will appear in this article nor will his current location be revealed.

### Clarence "Gene" Laws

Although all three players featured in this article were superb players, Gene was the most successful. As a small 10-year-old boy, "little Gene" burst upon the scene in 1958. He won the local, district and state championships!

In the finals of the state tournament that year, "little Gene" and the talented 14-year-old Chicago champion were both undefeated. They faced each other with the winner being the Illinois State Champion! Before the match began, the Chicagoan, undoubtedly thought that he would quickly "finish off" this little kid from the Southern Illinois "hick town."

Gene stunned the Chicago champ by winning the first game! The Chicagoan routed Gene in the second game and had to think, "I'm gonna' get you now, little kid!" T'was not to be, friends. Little Gene routed the Chicagoan in the third game and became one of the youngest state champions ever!

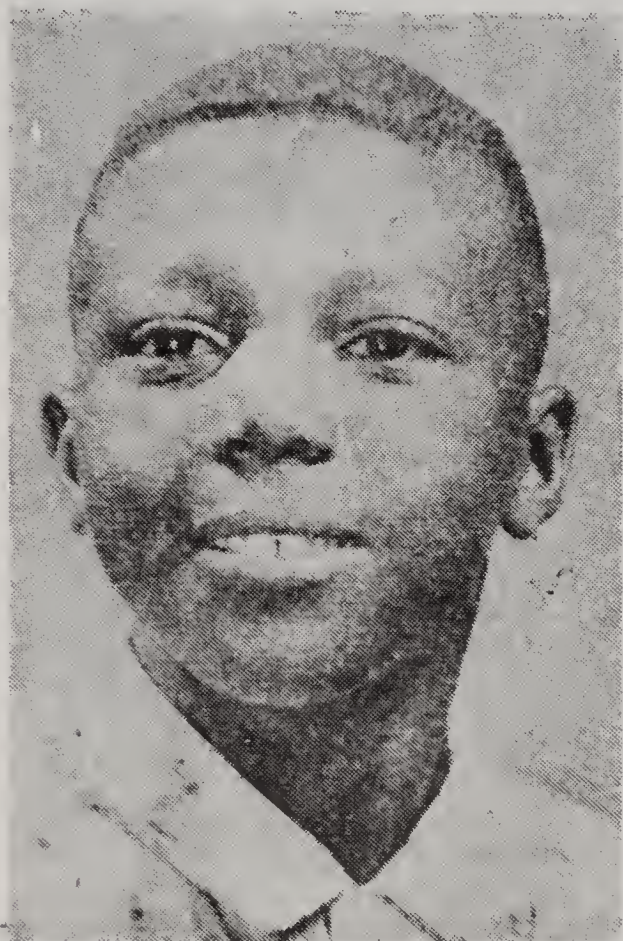
Gene would later win the 1961 and 1962 Illinois state championships. He competed in national tournaments in Tucson, Arizona, in St. Paul, Minnesota, and in Michigan and Tennessee. His highest finishes nationally were 6th, 12th and 14th. Although he was defeated in the 1959 local tournament, he competed nationally that year as a "representative of the United States Navy."

Gene was also a devastating power shooter. Like Ronnie Penny, Gene at times split marbles in half. He won many of his games by 7-1 and 7-2 scores. Once, in slightly over a month, Gene won over 800 marbles playing local players. The other Spartans were quickly convinced that Gene was truly a state champion!



A three time (1958, 1961, 1962) Illinois State champion, and with high finishes in National tournaments, Gene proved without a doubt that he was one of the nation's best marble players! Unfortunately, all of his medals were destroyed by fire.

While attending Sparta High School, Gene was a star athlete in several sports. He later played high-grade professional baseball but did not become a major leaguer. Today, Mr. Laws still lives in Sparta and works in a nearby underground coal mine. He vividly recalls his days of glory as a marble player!



*Little Gene in 1958*



*Mr. Laws today.*

### **Delbert Beard**

When Delbert won the 1959 Sparta marble tournament, he defeated defending state champion Gene Laws. Newspaper accounts stated that it was "an upset." Many people believed this and felt that Delbert would quickly lose in the district tournament.

However, friends, they were wrong in their belief! It was not an up-set. Delbert would prove that he, too, was one of the nation's best marble players! Now, who would have believed that three of the nation's best marble players all lived in the same small Illinois town?!

After being defeated by Gene Laws in the 1958 local tournament, Delbert defeated Gene in the 1959 and 1960 tournaments. Both years Delbert went on to Illinois state championships. His best finish nationally was 12th. Delbert, too, was a powerful shooter.

During the several interviews for this article, Mr. Beard and Mr. Laws displayed a special fascination for attractive marbles. They would hold these marbles "up to a light" and make statements such as, "Look at this one! It's really nice!"

During their marble playing days, Delbert and Gene practiced together many times. They





*Delbert in 1960*



*Mr. Beard today.*

were and still are good friends. Their friendly but intensely competitive battles in the 1958, 1959, and 1960 local marbles tournaments are nearly legendary in Sparta. (As readers now know, whoever won always became the Illinois State Champion!)

Defeating Gene Laws twice in local tournaments and winning consecutive Illinois State Championships in 1959 and 1960, Delbert certainly proved that he was one of the nation's best marble players.

Delbert was also a star athlete in high school excelling in basketball and track. Today, Mr. Beard still lives in Sparta and works at a surface coal mine near town. Delbert gets a twinkle in his eyes when asked about his days of glory as a marble player.

There are tens of thousands of V.F.W. "marble playing medals" in existence today. Should you ever see one you will know the story. You will also know that, regardless of whether it was for first place, second place, or third place, the original owner was an excellent marble player. During some of the tournament's peak years of the late 1950's, as many as 200,000 boys took part. There were more than 1,500 various tournaments held yearly throughout the nation. So, as you see, it certainly was a massive tournament designed to find the nation's best marble players!

About 1960, entries in the various tournaments began to decline. Therefore, faced with further declining interest during the next few years, 1962 was the last year the V.F.W. tournaments were held. Sadly, the game of marbles had begun to fade into the mist of time.

By about 1970, playing marbles had ceased to be popular. Today, the game is virtually dead in most areas of the nation. Sparta, Illinois, once the home of three of the nation's best players, is not the same. Mr. Robert Smith, owner of the local Ben Franklin store and once the largest supplier of marbles, stated that sales of marbles to small boys has been almost nil for the past 10 to 12 years.

Many readers of this article will think "how did three youngsters from a small town (Sparta's population was 3,600 at the time) win six consecutive Illinois State Marble Championships? How did they place that high nationally? It certainly borders on the unbelievable when one considers that Illinois is one of the nation's largest states!

You must remember that all three were later star high school athletes. The three just possessed rare "hand-eye" coordination. The fact that they lived in the same small town was just coincidental. Playing marbles was once their game!

The marble playing era is gone. It is quite sad, because the young boys of today will never experience the fun that many of "us oldsters" did. Although skeptical, the author hopes the game will again be popular at some point in the future. Then, the familiar words (spoken by boys with enthusiasm and shining eyes) of, "Hey! Ya' wanna' play marbles?" will again be heard. Then this article can begin all over again! It would be nice!

### **Acknowledgements**

1. The entire Veterans of Foreign Wars organization for their massive undertaking to find the nation's best marble players. The cost and effort was tremendous, but worthwhile. Thousands of members gave their time and labor to make the tournaments successful.
2. The thousands of businessmen nationwide who donated financial assistance and material to the V.F.W. tournaments.
3. Mr. and Mrs. Avon Beard, Mr. Gene Laws, Mr. Delbert Beard, Mr. Edgar Laws, Mr. Robert Smith, Mrs. Marva Hickerson, Mrs. Clemmie Bardo, and Mr. and Mrs. James Orella, Sparta, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Byron Brueggeman, Marissa, Illinois. Mrs. Mary Lukes, Pinckneyville, Illinois.
4. The Sparta News-Plaindealer, Mr. William Morgan, editor and owner, and employee Gloria Hissong.
5. The DuQuoin Illinois Evening Call newspaper.
6. The 1959 Sparta High School yearbook.
7. Sparta, Illinois V.F.W. Post 2698, and Mr. Ray Ferguson.
8. Photography by Mrs. Lovita Ingram of Percy, Illinois. (Some original photographs, courtesy of the V.F.W. organization, were reproduced.)
9. The National Headquarters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Kansas City, Missouri; Director of youth activities Mr. Larry Lesebvre and assistants.



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#### Future Auctions

**January 26, 1985.**

Mail and Floor Bid Sale held in Michigan.

Sale will feature Numismatic Literature, World and U.S. Coins.

*Deadline for consignments: December 3, 1984.*

**March 13 - 14, 1985.**

Chicago, Illinois.

To be held prior to, but not in conjunction with, the Chicago International Coin Fair. Sale will feature choice U.S., Canadian, Ancient and World coins.

*Deadline for consignments: January 14, 1985. Ancients due by December 15th.*

**April 12 - 13, 1985.**

Kalamazoo, Michigan.

To be held in conjunction with the Michigan State Numismatic Society's Annual Spring Convention. Sale will feature choice U.S., Canadian and World coins.

*Deadline for consignments: February 18, 1985.*

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## CLUB NEWS

### I.L.L.N.A.

Retiring treasurer, Bill Miller, was awarded a life membership at the state show banquet. Also receiving awards were Leroy J. Kaczor for years of outstanding service and the trophy for best obsolete paper money display. President Sam Johnson received the Best of Show (overall) Award for his display of bank notes from Sparta, Illinois and surrounding communities.



*Bill Miller (L) receives Life Membership Award from ILLNA President Sam Johnson*

*Best of Show Trophy was awarded to Sam Johnson (L) by Don Fisher*

ILLNA members did well at the Michigan State Fall Show once again. Adult Best of Show was won by John Wilson and Junior Best of Show was captured by Bill Grundy. Dale Lukanich was awarded 1st place in the "Foreign Coin" class, while Mark Wieclaw received the 3rd place award in that same class. Mark also received 1st place in the "All Tokens" class, and Nancy Wilson was named 2nd place finisher in the "U.S. Paper Money" class.

Carl Wolf and Debbie Wilamowski received awards for their invitational exhibits that had been named Best of Show at the spring Michigan State Show. Carl (adult winner) and Debbie (junior winner) also received a free trip to the A.N.A. seminar held this past summer. Both Carl and Debbie received 1st place plaques at the A.N.A. convention for these same exhibits.





*Don Fisher (R) presents Leroy J. Kaczor with the award for the best display of obsolete currency*

*ILLNA award winners at Michigan State Show (L to R) Bill Grundy, Dale Lukanich, Debbie Wilamowski, Mark Wieclaw, Carl Wolf, John Wilson, Nancy Wilson*

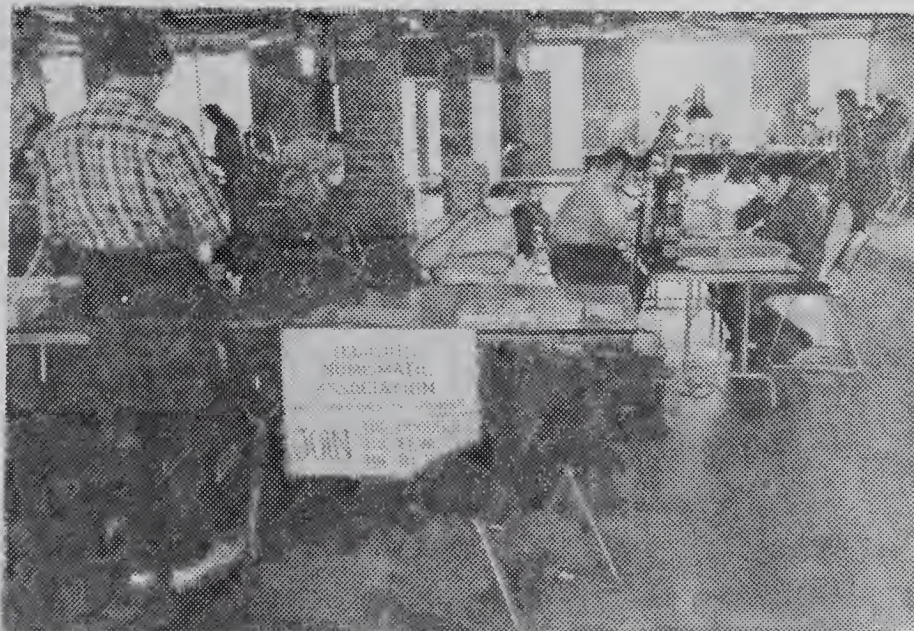
## CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

The Champaign-Urbana Coin Club held its annual coin show at the Civic Center in Urbana, Illinois on Sunday, November 4, 1984.

Attendance was real good at the show. There were twenty dealers and they all did a very good business.

There were five exhibits at the show: Mark Wieclaw took Best of Show honors with his U.S.-Philippine display and received a 1st place trophy for "The Berghoff Chips" exhibit; one by Jim Warren that won a first place; and two by Jim Kaczor that won second place each.

This is the 35th anniversary of the club.



*Leroy Kaczor and Ed Voss recruit new ILLNA members at the Champaign-Urbana Coin Show*



## CHICAGO COIN CLUB

Chicago Coin Club members that received ribbons at the annual state show were Carl Wolf (1st place - miscellaneous), Bill Grundy (1st place - junior), and Harry Flowers (3rd place - miscellaneous).

The annual banquet will be held this month and nominations are in for new officers.

## WILL COUNTY COIN CLUB

The December meeting will include election of officers, and club member grading of coins that have been sent to ANACS for grading. Any member who has attended at least 10 meetings this year will be eligible for the 1884-CC government packaged dollar to be given away.

Club members received 11 ribbons at the state show for their exhibits. They are:

### Foreign Coins

1-Mark Wieclaw  
2-Dale Lukanich  
3-Kevin-Dailey

### U.S. Coins

1-Ethel Ziesmer  
2-Dale Carlson

### Gold Coins

1-Ed Voss  
2-Bob Ziesmer

### Modern Medals

1-Ethel Ziesmer

### Paper Money

2-Henry Stephenson

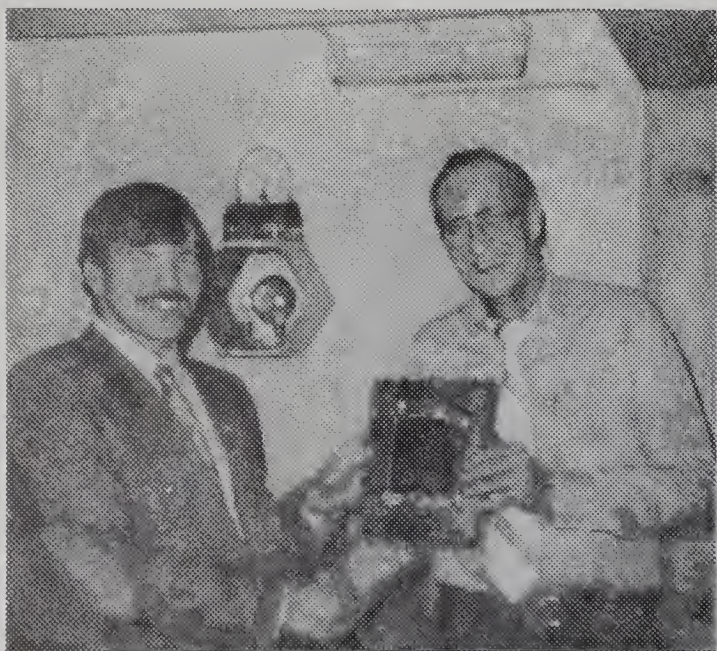
### Miscellaneous

2-Mark Wieclaw

### Junior

2-Lisa Lukanich

Bill Miller was awarded the 1984 "Outstanding Club Member" plaque at the club's annual banquet held in October. This award was given in appreciation for many years of service and leadership.



*Will County Coin Club President Mark Wieclaw presents Bill Miller with the 1984 "Outstanding Member Award"*



*Will County Coin Club award winners at the state show (L to R): Henry Stephenson, Mark Wieclaw, Ed Voss, Lisa Lukanich, Dale Lukanich, Bob Ziesmer, Ethel Ziesmer, Kevin Dailey, Dale Carlson*



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# **U.S. TERRITORIAL COINAGE FOR THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS**

by Mark Wieclaw

## **INTRODUCTION**

Collecting the U.S. territorial coinage for the Philippine Islands (U.S.T.P.I.) series is both interesting and challenging. Because these coins were produced at U.S. mints and contain the words "United States of America" they are becoming increasingly popular with collectors of U.S. coinage. Coupled with the fact that a large portion of these coins has been melted, damaged by saltwater, or lost through natural attrition makes the series very challenging to put together in high grade.

This article is being written to make the reader aware of the different areas inside the U.S.T.P.I. series and lists only the basics to put together a type set. For an indepth study of the series, it is suggested that you consult the publications listed at the end of this article.

## **HISTORY**

In 1902 the Philippine-American war came to an end with the surrender of Manila to the U.S.

On October 16, 1907 the first Philippine Assembly was established.

In 1916 the Philippine Senate and House of Representatives was established.

Laws were passed in 1934 by the U.S. Congress providing for the Philippine Commonwealth.

The Constitution of the Philippines was approved by President Roosevelt and ratified by the Filipino people in 1935.

December 8, 1941 saw the invasion of the Philippines by the Japanese. They held until October 20, 1944 when American forces landed on Leyte Island.

February 27, 1945 was when Manila was liberated and the Commonwealth was re-established.

On July 4, 1946 the Philippines became independent when the Republic of the Philippines was inaugurated. The colors red, white, and blue were chosen as the predominant colors of the flag.

An interesting note on the commemorative coins of 1936 and 1947. All four people portrayed were living while these coins were issued.





common reverse  
1903-1935  
all coins

common obverse  
½¢, 1¢, 5¢

common obverse  
10¢, 20¢, 50¢, peso

common reverse  
1937-1945  
all coins

## REGULAR ISSUE DESIGNS

Well known Filipino engraver Melecio Figueroa was responsible for the obverse designs of all regular USTPI issues. They were accepted with little change.

Selected for the minor coinage was a design featuring a Filipino male, resting one elbow on an anvil and holding a hammer in his right hand. A smoking volcano, Mt. Mayon, is in the background with smoke billowing to the left.

The design selected for silver issues depicts the figure of a standing native woman. Her hair and gown are swept back as though by a powerful gust of wind; she is holding a hammer against an anvil. Figueroa's only surviving daughter, Blanca, then 10 years of age, was used as the model for the figure of the woman. Mt. Mayon appears in this design also, however this time the smoke is billowing to the right.

His impressive design of an eagle perched atop a Union shield was selected for the reverse of all coins thru 1936.

## PROOF SETS

Proof sets were minted in five different years. Because of their low mintage they are quite scarce, especially in gem condition. A list of years and mintages includes: 1903 (2,558), 1904 (1,355), 1905 (471), 1906 (500), and 1908 (500).

## HALF-CENTAVO & ONE CENTAVO

The half-centavo was issued for circulation in 1903 & 1904. In March of 1904 it was decided that because of unpopularity, production would be halted. Forty-two percent of the 17.7 million minted were shipped to San Francisco to be melted and recoined as one centavo pieces. Proof-only issues were made in 1905, 1906, and 1908.

One centavo pieces proved to be more popular. From 1903 to 1936 millions of coins were minted each year, except for 1907, 1923, and 1924 when none were struck. The year 1920 was the only year that one centavos were struck by more than one mint for circulation, (San Francisco and Manila). From 1937 to 1944 the new commonwealth reverse was used. The composition of both half-centavos and one centavos is 95% copper, 5% zinc and tin, except for the 1944-s centavo which contained no tin.

### Specifications:

Denomination	Weight/Grns.	Size/MM.	Edge	Key Date
Half-Centavo	40	18	plain	none
One Centavo	80	25	plain	1916-s

## FIVE CENTAVOS

The other minor coinage of the U.S.T.P.I. is the 5-centavos piece. Although minor in status it provided major problems because of its size. The issues of 1903-1928 were identical in size to the 20¢ piece and on two occasions the dies of these denominations were paired to create muled coinage. If this wasn't bad enough the 1¢ piece of the Culion Leper Colony was also the same size and many people would lose 4¢ in face value by not inspecting their change.

The year 1930 saw a reduction in size to solve these problems. The weight was only slightly reduced and no change was made in the alloy (75% copper, 25% nickel). A new reverse was added in 1937 for the Philippine Commonwealth standing. Also a nickel-silver (nickel 12%, copper 65%, zinc 23%) alloy was introduced for 1944-45 coinage.

### Specifications

Period	Weight/Grns.	Size/MM.	Edge	Key Date
1903-28	77.16	21	plain	1916-s
1930-41	75.16	19	plain	1934-m
1944-45	75.16	19	plain	none



## SILVER COINAGE (1903-1906)

These first silver coins of the U.S.-Philippine series were struck in .900 fine silver, the same as regular U.S. coinage. However a ratio of two pesos to one dollar was established.

This new system was well accepted by all concerned, but serious problems soon arose. The price of silver was rising rapidly causing the bullion value to be higher than the intrinsic value.

In 1906 those silver coins still in the islands were recalled and shipped back to the U.S. to be melted and re-coined into pieces of lesser fineness. Of the \$32.8 million coined in the first four years, more than 91% was melted.

### Specifications:

Denomination	Weight/Grns.	Size/MM.	Edge	Key Date
10 centavos	41.55	18.0	reeded	1904-p
20 centavos	83.10	23.0	reeded	1905-s
50 centavos	208.0	31.0	reeded	1904-p
1 peso	416.0	38.0	reeded	1906-s

## SILVER COINAGE (1907-1935)

The new silver coinage was not only reduced in size and weight, but also in fineness. The 10¢, 20¢, and 50¢ pieces were reduced from .900 fine to .750 fine. The peso was reduced to .800 fine. This did not eliminate the problem however, as silver continued to rise. In 1912 the peso was halted and further reductions were considered for all denominations. This proved not to be necessary and no further action was taken. No more peso coins were issued for general circulation.

### Specifications:

Denomination	Weight/Grns.	Size/MM.	Edge	Key Date
10 centavos	30.86	16.5	reeded	1910-s
20 centavos	61.72	21.0	reeded	1909-s
50 centavos	154.32	28.0	reeded	1920-m
1 peso	308.64	35.5	reeded	1911-s

## SILVER COINAGE (1937-1945)

The reverse of the 1936 commemoratives was added to these coins since the Philippines were granted Commonwealth status. No coins were struck in the years 1939, 1940, 1942, or 1943. When coinage was resumed in 1944,

the Denver mint struck its first coins for the Philippines. It was pressed into service when the machinery at the Manila mint was destroyed by the Japanese during the war. All 1944 and 1945 silver coinage was struck at the Denver mint, except the 50¢ piece which was struck in San Francisco.

Specifications:

Denomination	Weight/Grns.	Size/MM.	Edge	Key Date
Ten Centavo	30.86	16.5	reeded	1941-m
Twenty Centavo	61.72	21.0	reeded	1941-m
Fifty Centavo	154.32	28.0	reeded	none

THE MINTS

1. The Philadelphia mint made all dies for regular and commemorative U.S.-Philippine coins.
2. From 1903 to 1908 Philadelphia and San Francisco made Philippine coins.
3. The San Francisco mint was the only producer for U.S.-Philippine coins from 1909 through 1919.
4. No mint-mark was used by the Manila mint on its coinage of 1920, 1921, and 1922. Coins of these years, except the 1920 1¢, were made at the Manila mint.
5. During 1923 and 1924 no Philippine coins were struck anywhere.
6. The Manila mint re-opened in 1925; from then through 1941, all U.S.-Philippine coins of regular and commemorative issue were struck there and all bore the mint-mark M.
7. All three U.S. mints then in operation were used to make Philippine coins, after the Philippine liberation in 1944.



The Manila Mint as it looked in 1921. Note American flag on front of the building.  
Photo courtesy National Archives



## “MULES”

A “mule” is a coin which is, either by accident or purposely, struck on one side with the die of another coin. This occurred twice in the USTPI series.

In 1918 a mint employee mistakenly used a 20¢ reverse for 5¢ coinage; the error was quickly discovered and corrected. The exact mintage is not known, but in a world study completed in early 1984 only 21 pieces were accounted for. The error wasn’t discovered until 1922 by collectors leading to the fact that only one coin is uncirculated. The great majority are graded fine or worse. There are almost certainly more 18-s mules that were not reported or haven’t been acknowledged as such. However, this amount will always be minimal compared to other varieties in the series.

The 1928 20¢ “mule” was struck intentionally. No 20¢ pieces were to be struck that year, but a rush order came in at the last minute. Since no dies had been prepared, a used 20¢ obverse die was paired with a new 5¢ reverse die. Both of these coins are of the same specifications of their respective denominations.

## 1936 “COMMEMORATIVES”

When the Philippines were granted Commonwealth status in 1936, three silver (2 - 1 peso and 1 - 50¢) commemoratives were issued. These coins have the same specifications as previous silver issues since 1907.

Designed by Ambrosio Morales, each reverse has the Philippine coat of arms with an eagle standing upon it. “United States of America” surrounds this.

The obverse of the first 1 peso contains jugate busts of U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt and first Philippine president Manuel L. Quezon facing L.

F.D.R. is replaced on the other peso by U.S. Governor-General Frank Murphy. Otherwise the description is the same.

The 50¢ piece has the busts of Murphy and Quezon facing each other, with the sun in the middle.

Prior to the Japanese invasion, thousands of these sets along with 15.8 million pesos were dumped into Corregidor harbor. Several attempts have been made to recover these, but it is estimated that two to three million pesos and commemoratives still lie beneath the sea.

Those pieces recovered generally have a dark corrosive substance caused by the salt water and cannot be removed.

1 peso  
Roosevelt-Quezon  
10,000

50¢  
Murphy-Quezon  
20,000

1 peso  
Murphy-Quezon  
10,000

## 1947 “COMMEMORATIVES”

These coins are not a part of the USTPI series, but are included to illustrate the close relationship of the newly formed Philippine Republic and the United States. Designed by Laura Gardin Fraser, these were the first coins struck for the new republic. Having the same specification as previous silver issues since 1907, they honor U.S. General Douglas MacArthur. The reverse contains the coat of arms of the Philippine Republic, the date, and denomination. The obverse has the bust of MacArthur, with the date that he returned to the Philippines below.

Both issues are weakly struck and command a premium when a well struck piece is available.

1947-s 50¢  
200,000

1947-s peso  
100,000

## CULION LEPER COLONY COINAGE

The small island of Culion was set aside for leper patients in 1906. For health reasons separate coinage was issued for them. These again are not part of the USTPI series, but are included since part of them were minted at the U.S. mint in Manila. The first issue was produced by the firm of Frank and Company, in 1913. Starting with the 1920 issue all coins were made at the Manila mint.

There were six issues made from 1913 to 1930, but not all denominations were made each time. In 1913, ½¢, 1¢, 5¢, 10¢, 20¢, and 1 peso coins were made from aluminum. The 1920 issue consisted of 10¢, 20¢ and 1 peso coins also of aluminum. In 1922 the metal was changed to copper-nickel to see if it would hold up better to the high humidity and salt air. Only 20¢ and 1 peso coins that year. Although the metal change really didn't help, copper-nickel was retained. 1925 saw only a 1 peso coin minted. 1¢ and 5¢ pieces were struck in 1927 and 1¢ along with 10¢ coins were made in 1930.

The reverse of the first three issues contained a Caduceus, inscription, and date. The fourth and fifth issues had the seal of Philippine Health Service instead of the Caduceus, while the sixth issue replaced with the denomination in large numerals.

The obverse of the first three issues had the denomination in large numerals along with CLC-Philippine Islands. The fourth and sixth issue had the bust of Jose Rizal, while the fifth issue contained the bust of A. Mabini.



## CONCLUSION

Illustrations of the common obverse and reverse coin designs, along with the photo of the Manila mint were obtained from Neil Shafer's booklet "United States Territorial Coinage for the Philippine Islands." The numbers and arrows on the coin illustrations indicate the first areas of wear for that particular denomination.

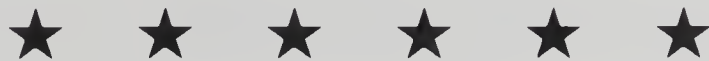
I hope that after reading this, you too will desire further information on this fascinating series. A Philippine collector's society was formed two years ago and would like to have anyone interested in Philippine coinage as a member.

## CREDITS

*"U.S. Territorial Coinage for the Philippine Islands,"* Neil Shafer, Whitman Publishing Co., Racine, WI, 1961

*Independent Study,* Jeff Springsteen, Brockport, N.Y., 1983-84

*"America's Imperial Currency," Coins,* John Semeniuk, Krause Publications, Inc. Volume 31, No. 1, January 1984



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## **“JOIN THE CLUB”**

*by Dale Lukanich*

The board would like to wish everyone a joyous holiday and a Happy New Year. We would like to start off 1985 with a new project; it is the 1985 membership drive. The Ill.N.A. board will have a table set up at four shows around the state. The first show will be at Rantoul, the second at Joliet, the third at the State Show in Peoria, and the fourth will be at Champaign-Urbana.

The purpose of this membership drive is to bring in new members and to make new friends. It seems that in the three years that I have been involved in this organization, I see the same names come up all the time. We can all do our part by talking to our friends and encouraging them to **“JOIN THE CLUB!”** You will find a membership application in the back of this book; clip it out and use it. All of the new members that join in 1985 will receive a bronze medallion similar to the picture on the front cover. There are only about 50 medals left so first come, first served.

One more thing. The club that brings in the most **NEW** members will receive \$50.00 from Ill.N.A. When you come to a show, look for our sign.

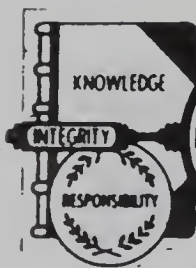
## **ILLINOIS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION**

**We're lookin' for a few good men  
(and women)**

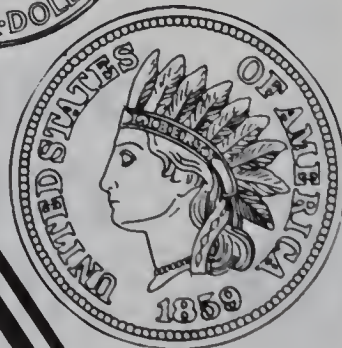
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*Thank You  
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